

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle speed control system for a vehicle, the vehicle equipped with an engine and an automatic transmission, the vehicle control system comprising:
- 5 a coast switch for decreasing a set vehicle speed; and
 a controller connected with said coast switch, said controller, controlling a vehicle speed at the set vehicle
- 10 speed by controlling a throttle of the engine and the automatic transmission, and
 maintaining a gear ratio of the automatic transmission at the gear ratio set at the moment before decreasing the set vehicle speed when the
- 15 coast switch is being operated to decrease the set vehicle speed.
2. A vehicle speed control system for a vehicle, the vehicle equipped with an engine and an automatic transmission, the vehicle control system comprising:
- 20 a vehicle cruise speed setting device for setting a set vehicle speed; and
 a controller connected with said vehicle cruise speed setting device, said controller,
- 25 controlling a vehicle speed at the set vehicle speed by controlling a throttle of the engine and the automatic transmission,
 fixing a gear ratio of the automatic transmission during a time period when a decreasing
- 30 operation of the set vehicle speed by means of said vehicle cruise speed device is executed.
3. The vehicle speed control system as claimed in

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claim 2, wherein said controller commands the automatic transmission to prohibit from executing a shift down when the set vehicle speed is being decreased by operating said vehicle cruise speed
5 setting device.

4. The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller commands the engine to start a deceleration control when the set vehicle
10 speed is being decreased by operating said vehicle cruise speed setting device.

5. The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said vehicle cruise speed setting
15 device comprises a set switch for setting the set vehicle speed, a coast switch for decreasing the set vehicle speed and an accelerate switch for increasing the set vehicle speed, said vehicle cruise speed setting device is manually operated by a vehicle
20 occupant.

6. The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller controls the engine rotation speed within a predetermined limit when the vehicle speed at the moment of restarting the vehicle speed control is greater than or equal to the target vehicle speed.
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7. A method for executing a vehicle speed control,
30 comprising:
controlling a vehicle speed at a set vehicle speed by controlling an engine and an automatic transmission of the vehicle;

detecting whether the set vehicle speed is being decreased; and

- 5 maintaining a gear ratio of the automatic transmission at a vehicle when said vehicle cruise speed device is being operated to decrease the set vehicle speed.